A Little Joyful Moment (Christians and Sex)

Genesis 2:18–25

2021/1/1

On January 1st, I watched a YouTube video titled *"The Sexual Lives of Christians"* featuring young Christian women. I also read related articles where these women discussed sex, marriage, and culture. I felt a sense of joy seeing them speak boldly, striving to ground their opinions in the Bible. It was encouraging to realize that they were not bound by church traditions but were sincerely trying to live as Christians. All of them belong to established churches and oppose sexual relations outside of marriage. Yet, because their understanding of the Bible is still shallow, I cannot help but feel concern about their misunderstandings and mistakes.

Ⅰ. Standing on the Basic Teaching of the Bible

I understand that these young women are striving to live in a way that pleases God. However, because they piece together fragmented biblical knowledge, their perspective is fragile. The principle must be to stand firmly on the basic teaching of the Bible.

That teaching is this: it is best for human beings to live according to the purpose of their Creator. Just as sparrows are meant to live as sparrows and chimpanzees as chimpanzees, humans are to live as humans. The principles for human life are found in the story of creation. Man and woman were created to love, help, and complement one another. Within that love, sexual intimacy exists. A man and a woman are to live together in loyalty and love for as long as they live. This is the form ordained by God. Living according to that design leads to human happiness—not only socially, but also psychologically and physiologically, for we are created that way. If we live contrary to this principle, it is like trying to cook with a saw or to do carpentry with a kitchen knife.

Today freedom and human rights are loudly proclaimed, yet even if freedom is restricted, the best life for humanity is still to live according to the principles by which we were created.

Ⅱ. Sex and the Sense of Sin

Interestingly, even those who advocate sexual freedom and proclaim the benefits of casual sex often still experience a sense of guilt. Theory and actual feeling differ. Many people strive to silence this guilt by making excuses. Why does this sense of guilt exist? Because such behavior contradicts the nature God has given humanity—our true human essence.

Conscience also speaks to us, telling us it is wrong. Conscience is the outgrowth of human nature shaped by culture and education. While not identical across all people, because it springs from the same human essence it bears strong similarities. For this reason, people often feel pangs of conscience when engaging in unrestrained sexual behavior.

Yet the Bible's teaching on sex and marriage does not always match modern laws or social customs. The ideal is to follow both the Bible and society's laws, but often this is impossible.

As Christians, our first priority must be to live according to God's design. If national laws directly contradict Scripture—for example, if adultery is legalized—then we must still oppose it and choose to live by the Bible.

Still, human beings are weak. Even Christians cannot fully escape this weakness. Thankfully, God not only accommodates human frailty to some extent, but He also loves the weak and has provided everything necessary for forgiveness. He waits for us to come to Him seeking mercy. Even those who fail to live according to His will can be forgiven and accepted. God is love. His desire is not to punish sinners but to save them.

Even regarding sexual sin, God's concern is not punishment but how to save those who suffer under sin's burden.

Ⅲ. Receiving God's Forgiveness and Its Results

The best way of life is to live according to God's original design. But humanity, enslaved to sin, cannot do this fully. That is why salvation is necessary, and why we must be reconnected to the life of God. This is possible through repentance and

turning back to Him. Yet as long as we live in this world, we cannot be perfect. Every day, at all times, we still need God's help.

The good news is this: what we cannot do, God enables us to do. He empowers us to live in ways that please Him. I share the story of prostitutes in Okinawa who were saved, even though they served American soldiers, to show how wonderfully God works in real situations.

We too must experience God's saving and sustaining power. And we should share this hope with those crushed by their weakness, or confused by conflicting opinions about how to live. We can tell them that there is a way of life that pleases God.

The discussions about LGBT and related issues have been going on for a long time. Many pastors avoid addressing them seriously, out of fear. Yet there are many complex factors involved, and various opinions abound. What we can affirm as Christians is that the foundation of life must align with God's creative design. Some cases involve wounds or illness of the heart; others involve mere curiosity or trends. If it is a wound or illness, healing is needed. If it is a trend, error must be corrected. Christians must not shrink back in fear from speaking the truth.

A New Year

Let us seek God's protection and guidance so that this year may be one in which we bring Him joy. Let us live positively, brightly, and boldly. No matter what difficulties come, we need not fear. The Lord of hosts is on our side. As the Apostle Paul declared with conviction, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Day by day, let us pray for one another, strengthen the bonds of God's family through faith, and nurture hearts that help each other.